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SENATE SPONSORS of White Fleet photographed in President's Room at Capitol are: co-sponsors of resolution Hubert Humphrey (Minn.) and George Aiken (Vt.) in center, and supporters (*from left as heads appear*) Senators Jacob Javits (N.Y.), Henry Jackson (Wash.), Frank Church (Idaho), Clinton Anderson (N. Mex.), Vance Hartke (Ind.), William Proxmire (Wis.), Frank Moss (Utah), Paul Douglas (Ill.), Ralph Yarborough (Texas), Wayne Morse (Oregon), Estes Kefauver (Tenn.), Kenneth Keating (N.Y.), John Pastore (R.I.), Gale McGee (Wyo.), Clifford Case (N.J.) and Harrison Williams (N.J.).

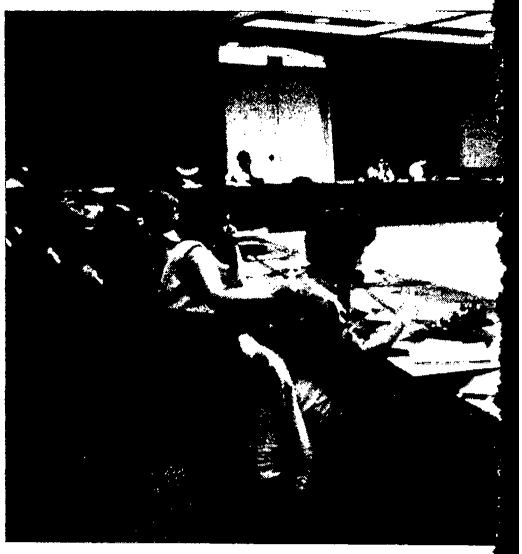
THE WHITE FLEET PROPOSAL GETS FAST HEAD OF STEAM

The idea of a White Fleet to take U.S. aid to needy areas of the world, proposed by LIFE last week, caught on fast and produced support from every quarter. In his press conference President Eisenhower commented on the proposal. He pointed out, as LIFE did last week, that the ships must function as a guest fleet, moving in on the invitation of countries which needed help. "I know that it will receive earnest study," he said. Later the White House confirmed that the President himself was keenly interested in the White Fleet idea.

LIFE conducted its own poll of Congress, where resolutions proposing the fleet are already gaining headway. The poll's results, overwhelmingly in favor of the idea, are summarized in the chart on the opposite page and in the typical answers quoted (*above, right*).

The embassies of countries which might be helped by the fleet were also full of praise. "Our people will welcome it," said the Philippine embassy. The Vietnamese embassy called it "a great, generous idea of the U.S."

But the fleet is not yet a reality. Later on LIFE will advise its readers where to send contributions for it. For now those in favor of the White Fleet proposal may write to the chairmen of the two armed services committees which now have jurisdiction over the White Fleet resolutions. Their names and addresses are: Senator Richard B. Russell, Room 205, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. and Representative Carl Vinson, Room 309, House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.



POLL OF CONGRESS IS TAKEN OVER PHONES BY

PRAISE FOR THE PLAN

Rep. Henry Reuss (Wis.) "LIFE's White Fleet idea is as inspiring as that of the prophet Isaiah that we should beat our swords into ploughshares."

Rep. Thomas Pelly (Wash.) "Florence Nightingale could not have suggested a better idea."

Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. (Mass.) "The White Fleet would call attention of the world in a dramatic way to the real America —a people who ardently desire peace and genuinely hope for a better world for all."

Sen. Warren Magnuson (Wash.) "No finer use could be made of ships built for U.S. defense than to acquaint the world with America's desire for peace."

Rep. Daniel Flood (Pa.) "It's like taking a white stripe from the flag and putting it to work."

Sen. Lyndon Johnson (Texas) "This strikes me as an imaginative idea which would show forcefully to the world that our people would rather come with bread than with a sword."

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY William Franke, who would provide ships for fleet, says proposal is good but that much planning is needed to carry it out.

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'LIFE' EMPLOYES IN A WASHINGTON, D.C. HOTEL

IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

Rep. Carl Vinson (Ga.) "I am tremendously impressed with the concept of this program. There are details that would have to be carefully considered, but I can think of none that cannot be solved."

Rep. George Huddleston, Jr. (Ala.) "This is the first fresh idea in the cold war in some time."

Sen. Jacob Javits (N.Y.) "There is no substitute for compassion among all mankind, any more than there is for a smile."

Sen. Richard Neuberger (Ore.) "What better way than this to create goodwill, sympathy and even love for America in the crowded lands where a decision is yet to be made between democracy and communism?"

Rep. Carl Perkins (Ky.) "Commander Manson has rendered a great service to his country."

Sen. Clinton Anderson (N. Mex.) "The surplus food the fleet carries would be better in people's digestive tracts than rotting in storage."

"PROJECT HOPE" BACKER, Dr. William Walsh, interrupts practice to answer special project phone. His group has one hospital ship sailing next year.

HOUSE SPONSORS grouped in a Capitol hallway around chief sponsors Ed Edmondson (Okla.) and William Bates (Mass.), are (*left to right as heads appear*) Representatives Merwin Coad (Iowa), Frank Burke (Ky.), Leo O'Brien (N.Y.), Byron Rogers (Colo.), D.S. Saund (Calif.), Henry Reuss (Wis.), Carl Albert (Okla.), William Natcher (Ky.), Charles Brown (Mo.), John Lindsay (N.Y.), John Saylor (Pa.), John Jarman (Okla.), Toby Morris (Okla.), and Charles Boyle (Ill.). According to House Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Vinson resolutions will probably not be acted on in this session.

RESULTS OF 'LIFE' POLL OF CONGRESS

REACTION TO FLEET PROPOSAL	SENATE			HOUSE		
	REP.	DEM.	TOTAL	REP.	DEM.	TOTAL
ALL IN FAVOR	14	44	58	75	151	226
YES, WITH RESERVATIONS	8	4	12	22	33	55
OPPOSED	1	1	2	1	7	8
NO COMMENT	5	9	14	22	30	52
UNAVAILABLE	6	6	12	33	61	94

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